



Strathcona Branch 595

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017

PRESENT:	Brian Madden, Wanda Riddell, Robert Mantle, Derk Duermeyer, Ken Bongu, J E McNeil, Ron Barrie, Grant Yusak, Martin Maltais, Robin Brown, Pauline Walker, Mary Smith, Sylvie-Anne St. Aubin, Sharon Brush, Donna M. Kemeny, Dave Brush, Tom Feeley, Heather Mills, Victor Dowie, Bot Kelly, Janet Waitman, Paul Bendus, Ray Moloughney , Connie Bennett, Debra Lortie, Jean-Pierre Lortie, Joel VanSnick, Frank Stacey, Wayne Bernard, Ron Oakley, Toula Pouris, Jim Simpson <i>(some attendees did not sign the book but were witnessed at the meeting)</i>
EXCUSED:	Helen Fraser
ABSENT:	

1. OPENING CEREMONIES AS PER LEGION RITUAL:

Meeting called to order and opened with the President conducting the "Opening Ritual" at 7:00 pm.

The conducting of the meeting was then turned over to the Branch Chair Comrade James Simpson.

2. CEREMONY OF ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

President Maltais conducted the swearing ceremony of new members after which they were welcomed by the members.

David Gibbons	Associate
Charles Fowler	Ordinary
Mary Foubert-Fowler	Associate

3. ELECTIONS:

The Elections were CONDUCTED BY Zone Commander Joel VanSnick assisted by Deputy Zone Commander Frank Stacey.

Comrade Jim Simpson was acclaimed for the position of President. Comrade Wanda Riddell was elected as 1st Vice-President, Comrade Tom Feeley was elected as 2nd Vice-President and Comrade Derk Duermeyer was elected as 3rd Vice-President.

Eight members ran for the nine executive positions and were acclaimed:

Comrades Ray Moloughney, Connie Bennett, Grant Yusak, Rob Mantel, Janet Waitman, Robin Brown, Vic Dowie, and Toula Pouris

It was moved by Comrade Joel VanSnick and seconded by Comrade John Fraser that the ballots be destroyed.

Zone Commander VanSnick then went through the procedure of swearing in the newly elected Executive, the three Vice-Presidents and the President in their respective offices. Following those ceremonies, President Maltais turned the conducting of the meeting over to Branch Chair Comrade Simpson.

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING:**

The minutes of the last meeting held on February 7, 2017 were distributed.

MOTION to accept the Minutes of the last meeting

Moved by Comrade Martin Maltais and seconded by Comrade Wanda Riddell to accept the minutes as circulated.

CARRIED

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

No business arising from previous General Meeting

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Martin Maltais**

Thank you very much to all those who had their names stand to be part of the Executive Committee for 2017 - 2018. Thank you very much to all those who were part of the Executive Committee for 2016 - 2017; It has been a whirlwind of a year. Thank you very much to the scrutinizers helping us in the conduct of these elections.

A quick question for Comrade Joel VanSnick, are there any reason(s) why Strathcona isn't part of another branch election within the zone? Response: Comrade VanSnick said he would look into this matter

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT: Comrade Jim Simpson**

The financial statements for the period ending March 31st, 2017 were presented; copies were distributed at beginning of meeting to all members

Income Statement: Comrade Jim Simpson commented on losses, differences between statement periods and how the branch cannot sustain with these losses.

Members commented on cash balance and suggestions were made regarding investments

Comrade Simpson/Executive will investigate member's suggestion regarding Meridian Credit Union which member advises offers no fees and higher % on short term investments.

Link: <https://www.meridiancu.ca/>

Balance Sheet: Comrade Simpson commented the balance sheet is a reflection of our status. There were no questions from members.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE AND BUSINESS ARISING THEREFROM:**

None

8. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

(a) **Bar:** Comrade Martin Maltais on behalf of Comrade Helen Fraser: the bar is running smoothly

(b) **Entertainment:** Vacant

(c) **Sports and Track and Field:** Vacant

No report

- (d) **Legion Retail:** Comrade Derk Duermeyer
Legion sales are going well
- (e) **House:** Vacant
- (f) **Hall Rentals:** Comrade Wanda Riddell
Rentals are good with positive feedback from clients
- (g) **Training and Organizational Development:** Comrade Tom Feely
No report
- (h) **Communications:** Comrade Jim Simpson
The newsletters continue to go out weekly by email
- (i) **Public Relations and Publicity:** Vacant
- (j) **Membership:** - Comrade Martin Maltais for Comrade Helen Fraser

STATUS	# RECORDS
Paid up	212
Lapsed 1&2	128
Totals:	340

- (k) **Poppy:** Comrade Martin Maltais
Material has been ordered for this year's campaign
- (l) **Honours and Awards:** Vacant
- (m) **Veterans' Services:** Comrade Vic Dowie
No requests for service at this time
- (n) **Legion Seniors:** Vacant
- (o) **Branch Regulations:** Comrade Jim Simpson
By-laws are out of date and the branch will set up a group to help bring us up to date and will be putting a notice later in the agenda with a motion in June
- (p) **Youth Education and Bursary:** Comrade Bruce Brown
Two entries won 3rd place
Public speaking took place 1st Saturday in March
- (q) **Ways & Means:** Comrade Tom Feeley
Comrade Feeley commented that more branch members need to participate in a volunteer capacity as the current status is not sustainable with the branch continuously losing money. Comrade Wayne Bernard offered to buy a pool table for the Branch, this offer was received with positive feedback as this would generate income for the branch. Comrade Wayne Bernard was thanked for his offer.

- (r) **Cadet Liaison:** Comrade Rob Mantle
Successful year for GGFGs and deserving Cadet (C/Sgt Miaysa Bulger) has been selected based on Essay Submission as well as Volunteer efforts, Community Service and overall Cadet experience.

MOTION TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS

Moved by Comrade Janet Waitman and seconded by Comrade Martin Maltais	that
all reports be accepted	

CARRIED

9. GENERAL AND NEW BUSINESS:

Comments from the floor:

- 1) the cost of rentals and liquor are too reasonable
- 2) recommendation from Comrade Dave Brush to go back to **detailed report** which included bar prices and ways to reduce costs
- 3) concerns that some members did not get recognized for long term service
- 4) other Legions only have one price for Friday night dinners, suggest 595 Strathcona do the same

10. TABLING OF NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion to be tabled at June meeting to update the Strathcona By-laws and if necessary the Branch Regulations. If the Regulations have to be updated that must go through Ontario Command.

11. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:23 p.m. Comrade Simpson, the Branch Chair, declared the business of the meeting having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

Zone Commander Comrade Joel VanSnick made some closing remarks. This was his last meeting at 595 Strathcona as he was elected to Deputy District Commander and that Comrade Frank Stacey will be replacing him as Zone Commander.

He spoke about recognition and how important it was to volunteers. He spoke of the service medal that has a cost of only \$13 but means a lot to members when being presented with it for their volunteer work. He also mentioned the Governor General’s award which requires two individuals, one to nominate and one to document in detail what the nominee has done.

He recommended members go to Zone and District conventions; many Branches that are successful do a lot of networking, they get ideas from other Branches.

He acknowledged that we are going through a rough patch but we can fix it with a lot of work and everyone has to help.

12. CLOSING CEREMONY:

President Maltais conducted the “Closing Ritual”

13. NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

Next meeting June 27, 2017

Martin Maltais

Debra Lortie